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HAIG AND CHINA AIDE CALL FOR CLOSER TIES TO COUNTER SOVIET

First Day's Talks in Peking Said to
Stress Danger From Moscow
and Need for Cooperation

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PEKING, June 14 — Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig Jr. and Foreign Minister Huang Hua of China concluded the first of three days of Chinese-American talks today in apparent agreement on the need for closer strategic cooperation to counter Soviet activities around the world.

A senior aide to Mr. Haig, in briefing reporters after the two-hour meeting, said there was "a great deal of unanimity" that the main problem in the world today was "Soviet hegemonism." Hegemonism is the shorthand term used by the Chinese to criticize Soviet the expansion of Soviet power.

Mr. Huang, in a banquet toast tonight, said that the Chinese "attach importance to the strategic relationship between China and the United States" despite the differences that exist between them "in policy and viewpoint."

Haig Stresses Cooperation

And Mr. Haig, who was reported yesterday to believe that there was a "strategic imperative" for closer ties because of the Soviet threat, said in his toast tonight that "Chinese-American cooperation is all the more important when we confront serious threats to peace and tranquillity."

Last week, the Chinese publicly rebuked the Reagan Administration for its pledge to continue to supply defensive armaments to Taiwan, and raised doubts that it would cooperate with the United States if such sales to the Nationalist regime there were not curtailed.

But Taiwan was not mentioned in today's meeting between Mr. Haig and Mr. Huang, in which each side was represented by a dozen officials, the aide to Mr. Haig said. And the subject was only vaguely alluded to, as one of the "differences" between the countries, in Mr. Huang's toast.

Issue Apparently Put Aside

The overall sense of the initial discussions seemed to be that the Chinese were willing to put the Taiwan issue aside for the moment, publicly at least, having made their case in advance of Mr. Haig's arrival, and would concentrate on enhancing security and other forms of cooperation between the two countries.

This apparent approach heartened Mr. Haig and his colleagues who want to have far-reaching talks over the next two days that could lead by the end of the year to such developments as an increased sharing of intelligence information and closer

policy collaboration around the world in opposition to the Soviet Union.

Mr. Haig is also prepared when he meets the Chinese Defense Minister, Geng Biao, tomorrow afternoon to discuss the broad range of Chinese-American security cooperation. Topics include the possible sale of certain military items such as antitank weapons as well as of high technology to help China build its own defense industry.

There had been some concern among Mr. Haig and his aides that the Chinese might choose to open the first high-level talks with the Reagan Administration by attacking the Administration for its continuing support for the Taiwan Relations Act, which authorizes the sale of military equipment to Taiwan for defensive purposes.

Taiwan will probably be discussed sometime in the next two days, but the Americans said tonight that today's talks had been "very fruitful" and they doubted that there would be any serious setbacks.

Mr. Huang said that "difficulties in our relations can be surmounted so long as both sides proceed from the overall strategic interests" and disputes are handled "in a cautious and appropriate manner."

The Chinese side clearly wanted to signal that it regarded the Haig visit as an important development, and wanted this known at the start.

As the members of each side were being seated in a room in the Great Hall of the People, photographers and reporters were allowed to observe the first minutes of the meeting.

'A Lot of Old Friends'

Mr. Huang said that Mr. Haig had "a lot of old friends" in China who knew him from his work as an aide to President Richard M. Nixon and his national security adviser, Henry A. Kissinger, who helped pave the way for Mr. Nixon's visit here nearly 10 years ago. Mr. Haig said that "on our side of the table there are many friends of China."

Several of the Americans, such as John H. Holdridge, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, were involved with the initial establishment of relations.

"You have come at a time when the international situation is tense and turbulent," Mr. Huang said to Mr. Haig across the table. "Your visit at this time is of major significance and is very useful."

When asked why the Chinese seemed so receptive to Mr. Haig, one American official said, "This is the first Secretary of State who has come here and has not gotten into a dispute with the Chinese over such things as détente and strategic arms talks."

"Haig thinks that 'détente' and 'SALT talks' are bad words," he said.

Crisis in Poland Noted

American officials said that Mr. Haig and Mr. Huang in their discussions today agreed on the dangers to the world caused by Soviet actions threatening the independence of Poland, intervention in Afghanistan, support for Cubans in Africa and in Central America, deployment of missiles in Europe and support for Vietnamese actions in Cambodia and elsewhere in Southeast Asia.

"The independence and security of many countries and peace in the world have come under increasingly serious threats from hegemonism," Mr. Huang said. "Such a situation cannot but arouse the anxiety and concern of the people of all countries, including China and the United States."

The use of "hegemonism" as a term for criticizing Soviet foreign policy has been accepted by the United States and is mentioned in the communiqué signed in Shanghai in 1972 by President Nixon that opened the way to the setting up of liaison missions that eventually became embassies in 1979 in Peking and in Washington.

"We deem it both necessary and beneficial for our two sides to have an in-depth and frank exchange of views, under the present circumstances, on international issues of mutual interest and on bilateral relations," Mr. Huang said. "The basic starting point of China's foreign policy is to oppose hegemonism and safeguard world peace."

Mr. Haig, who is to meet tomorrow with China's top economic official as well as Foreign Minister Huang and Defense Minister Geng, will confer on Tuesday with Deng Xiaoping, China's paramount leader, and with Prime Minister Zhao Zhiyang.